

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action of July 18, 2007, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-22, 24-26, 28, 30-33, and 35-38 are now pending, with claims 1, 11, 22, and 28 being independent.

Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claim 28 for informalities. Applicants have amended claim 28 to address the noted informalities. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 28.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-10 and 22-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for reciting non-functional, descriptive material, which the Examiner alleges is non-statutory subject matter. See non-final Office Action of July 18, 2007 at page 3, lines 6-13. Applicants have amended claims 1-10 and 22-27 to recite computer program products embodied on tangible computer-readable media that include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to perform various different recited acts. Consequently, applicants submit that, as amended, claims 1-10 and 22-27 recite statutory subject matter. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 22-27.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-21

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-16, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046296 (Doss) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,820,204 (Desai), and claims 6, 7, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,637 (Dunlap). Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 and request reconsideration

and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-21 because none of Doss, Desai, or any proper combination of Doss and Desai describes or suggests all of the subject matter recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to, among other features, display an instant messaging graphical user interface that enables the user to engage in instant messaging communications sessions and that includes a file list listing a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system.

The Office Action acknowledges that Doss does not include a file list listing a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1. See non-final Office Action of July 18, 2007 at page 4, lines 8-11. For this deficiency in Doss, the Office Action relies on Desai. See non-final Office Action of July 18, 2007 at page 4, lines 11-15.

Desai describes an information exchange system that provides each user of the information exchange system with granular control over which other users of the system may access information and files stored in the user's profile. See Desai at col. 3, lines 35-41. The Office Action contends that Desai teaches a file list as recited in independent claim 1 at column 29, lines 5-14. For reference, this passage of Desai is reproduced below:

With reference to FIG. 45, a flow diagram shows a method for providing access to a file uploaded by the method described in FIG. 43. The user may initially view their contact list (step 4602). The user may then select a member from the contact list who has uploaded at least one file (step 4604). A list of files uploaded by the selected member to which the user has been granted access is displayed (step 4406). The user may select a file from the list of the selected member's views (step 4608), and is provided the option to have the file presented or to download the file to the local client (step 4612).

Desai at col. 29, lines 5-14 (emphasis added). As the excerpted passage illustrates, Desai teaches that a user of Desai's system may select a member from the user's own contact list in order to

view “[a] list of files uploaded by the selected member,” not a list of files uploaded by the user. Therefore, Desai fails to describe or suggest a file list listing a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 3-10.¹

As amended, independent claim 11 recites features that are similar to those discussed above in connection with amended independent claim 1 and does so in the context of a method. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with amended independent claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 11 and its dependent claims, claims 12-21.²

Claims 22 and 24-26

Claim 22 has been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,111,232 (Bascom), and claims 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Applicants have amended independent claim 22 and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 and 24-26 because none of Doss, Bascom, or any proper combination of Doss and Bascom describes or suggests all of the features recited in independent claim 22.

As amended, independent claim 22 recites a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to, among other features, display an instant messaging graphical user interface that includes a contacts list listing one or more other users of

¹ Dependent claims 6 and 7 were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Dunlap. Dunlap does not cure the deficiencies noted in Doss and Desai above, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 6 and 7 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 1.

² Dependent claims 17 and 18 were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Dunlap. Dunlap does not cure the deficiencies noted in Doss and Desai above, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 17 and 18 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 1.

the instant messaging service and a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, receive an indication of a selection by the user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and trigger invocation of a web browser and cause the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received.

The Office Action acknowledges that Doss does not describe or suggest a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, as recited in independent claim 22. See non-final Office Action of July 18, 2007 at page 9, lines 10-12. Because Doss does not describe or suggest a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, it follows that Doss also does not describe or suggest additional features related to the links list that have been added to independent claim 22 by way of this amendment. For example, Doss does not describe or suggest a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection by a user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and trigger invocation of a web browser and cause the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received, as recited in amended independent claim 22.

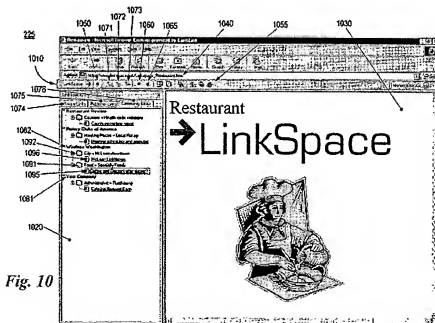
Because Doss does not describe or suggest a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, as recited in independent claim 22, the Office Action relies on Bascom for teaching this feature of independent claim 22.

Bascom describes a system that provides an Internet user that currently is accessing a particular web page with a selection of links to other web pages that other users of the system

have identified as being related to the particular web page that the Internet user currently is accessing. Bascom at col. 3, lines 4-40. As described by Bascom, the system:

allows a network user to be presented with a selection of links to document objects [e.g., web pages] related to the document object [e.g., web page] the user is currently accessing based upon the URL of the current document object [e.g., web page], and link relationships created by the user and other users of the network stored in the link directories.

Bascom at col. 3, lines 13-20 (emphasis added). For example, referring to FIG. 10 of Bascom (reproduced below), when a user of Bascom's system uses a web browser to navigate to a particular web page, the particular web page may be presented to the user in a browser window (1030) and a selection of links to other web pages that other users of Bascom's system have identified as being related to the particular web page may be presented in a link reference display window (1020).



Reproduction of Bascom FIG. 10

Because Bascom describes providing an Internet user with a selection of links to web pages that have been identified as being related to a web page that the Internet user currently is

accessing, the Internet user's web browser must be open at the time the selection of links is provided to the Internet user. Consequently, like Doss, Bascom does not describe or suggest a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to trigger invocation of a web browser and cause a web page corresponding to a particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving an indication of a selection of the particular link to the web page from a links list if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received, as recited in independent claim 22. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 22 and its dependent claims, claims 24-26.³

Claims 28 and 30-33

Claims 28, 32 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap, and claims 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,269 (Megiddo).⁴ Applicants have amended independent claim 28 and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28 and 30-33 because none of Doss, Bascom, Dunlap, or any proper combination thereof describes or suggests all of the features recited in independent claim 28.

As amended, independent claim 28 recites a method that includes, among other features, displaying an instant messaging graphical user interface that includes a contacts list listing one or more other users of the instant messaging service and a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, receiving an indication of

³ Dependent claims 24-26 were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Dunlap does not cure the deficiencies noted in Doss and Bascom above, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 24-26 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 22.

⁴ Dependent claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 28, which has been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Therefore, because dependent claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 28, applicants understand dependent claims 30 and 31 as having been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom in view of Dunlap further in view of Megiddo, even though the Office Action only indicates that dependent claims 30 and 31 have been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Megiddo.

a selection by the user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and invoking the web browser and causing the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received.

As discussed above, neither Doss nor Bascom describes or suggests invoking a web browser and causing a web page corresponding to a particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving an indication of a selection of the particular link to the web page from a links list if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received, as recited in independent claim 28. Dunlap, which describes a presentation system that enables a presenter to distribute and present a presentation to remote users over a computer network, also does not describe or suggest this feature of independent claim 28, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so as this feature of independent claim 28 was added by way of this amendment. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 28 and its dependent claims, claims 30-33.⁵

New Claims

New dependent claims 35-38 depend from one of independent claims 11 and 28. Accordingly, applicants submit that new dependent claims 35-38 are allowable at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claims 11 and 28.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

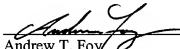
⁵ Dependent claims 30 and 31 were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom in view of Dunlap further in view of Megiddo. Megiddo does not cure the deficiencies noted in Doss, Bascom and Dunlap above, nor does the Office Action contend that Megiddo does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 30 and 31 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 28.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of \$120 in payment for the Petition for One-month Extension of Time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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